



The State of Utah

Department of  
Natural Resources

Division of  
Oil, Gas & Mining

ROBERT L. MORGAN  
*Executive Director*

LOWELL P. BRAXTON  
*Division Director*

OLENE S. WALKER  
*Governor*

GAYLE F. McKEACHNIE  
*Lieutenant Governor*

**Representatives Present During the Inspection:**

Company Johnny Pappas Sr. Environmental Engineer

OGM Pete Hess Environmental Scientist III

## Inspection Report

Permit Number:	C0070038
Inspection Type:	COMPLETE
Inspection Date:	Friday, April 23, 2004
Start Date/Time:	04/23/2004 8:50:00 AM
End Date/Time:	04/23/2004 2:30:00 PM
Last Inspection:	Friday, March 12, 2004

Inspector: Pete Hess, Environmental Scientist III

Weather: Overcast: 40's to 50's F. winds @ 15-30 MPH

InspectionID Report Number: 245

Accepted by: pgrubaug

05/07/2004

Permitee: PLATEAU MINING CORP

Operator: PLATEAU MINING CORP

Site: WILLOW CREEK MINE

Address: 847 NW HWY 191, HELPER UT 84526

County: CARBON

Permit Type: PERMANENT COAL PROGRAM

Permit Status: ACTIVE

**Current Acreages**

14,670.00	Total Permitted
161.55	Total Disturbed
	Phase I
	Phase II
	Phase III

**Mineral Ownership**

- ☒ Federal  
☐ State  
☐ County  
☒ Fee  
☒ Other

**Types of Operations**

- ☒ Underground  
☐ Surface  
☒ Loadout  
☐ Processing  
☐ Reprocessing

**Report summary and status for pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments:**

There are no compliance actions pending for the Willow Creek Mine permit area. The only permit condition currently pending included in attachment "A" of the State permit is the requirement to submit water monitoring data in an electronic form to the Division's web site. The permittee has been in compliance with this permit condition since the second quarter of 2001.

Inspector's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Pete Hess, Environmental Scientist III

Inspector ID Number: 46

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Monday, May 03, 2004

**Note:** This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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## Inspection Continuation Sheet

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### REVIEW OF PERMIT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENT

1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
  - a. For COMPLETE inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check Not Applicable.
  - b. For PARTIAL inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by reference the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Divison Orders, and amendments.

	Evaluated	Not Applicable	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Signs and Markers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Topsoil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.a Hydrologic Balance: Diversions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.b Hydrologic Balance: Sediment Ponds and Impoundments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.c Hydrologic Balance: Other Sediment Control Measures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.d Hydrologic Balance: Water Monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.e Hydrologic Balance: Effluent Limitations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Explosives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Disposal of Excess Spoil, Fills, Benches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Coal Mine Waste, Refuse Piles, Impoundments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Noncoal Waste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Slides and Other Damage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Contemporaneous Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Backfilling And Grading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Revegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Subsidence Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Cessation of Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.a Roads: Construction, Maintenance, Surfacing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.b Roads: Drainage Controls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Other Transportation Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Support Facilities, Utility Installations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS Check	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Air Quality Permit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Bonding and Insurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

The permittee notified the Division on April 30, 2004 that the sale of the lands in the Castle Gate area to the Price River Water Improvement District has been completed. Mr. Pappas had a copy of the payment check and the signed agreement to purchase. The permittee is waiting on the recorded deed from the PRWID and the Carbon County Recorder's Office.

3. Topsoil

Although idle this day, the topsoiling of the School House Canyon waste rock facility continues. Soil material is being recovered from the Mine facilities area main topsoil stockpile. It appears that approximately 25% of the refuse remains to be covered.

4.a Hydrologic Balance: Diversions

The permittee's contractor has established the drainage channel from the toe of the pond 013A embankment (MSHA pond at the toe of the School House Canyon waste rock facility) to the Castle Gate access road. From this point, the flows will then report to the Price River.

4.b Hydrologic Balance: Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

The permittee conducted the first quarter 2004 impoundment inspections for the Willow Creek disturbed area on March 26, 2004. Mr. Pappas conducted the inspections; there were no signs of instability or other hazards noted during the permittee's inspections. The pond 013A monthly inspection was last conducted by Mr. Steve Rigby on March 28, 2004. Although this pond has been partially backfilled, it still provides some sediment control for the School House Canyon waste rock storage facility.

4.d Hydrologic Balance: Water Monitoring

The permittee submitted the first quarter 2004 water monitoring information for the Willow Creek permit area to the Division's electronic web site on April 21, 2004. Discharge monitoring reports for the months of January through March of 2004 were reviewed. No outfalls occurred from the site's six active sediment ponds during that three month period; all reports had been submitted to the various government agencies in a timely fashion.

4.e Hydrologic Balance: Effluent Limitations

The permittee's current UPDES permit remains in effect until April 30, 2008.

**7. Coal Mine Waste, Refuse Piles, Impoundments**

The permittee conducted the fourth quarter of 2003 waste rock pile inspection / certification on November 11, 2003. Mr. John Borla performed that inspection. The re-shaping of the School House Canyon waste rock facility was initiated on or about January 19, 2004. The Division granted a conditional approval for the re-design / reclamation / post mining land use change for this facility on April 13, 2004. As noted on April 23, 2004, approximately 25% of the surface area of refuse remains to be topsoiled. Hydro-mulching and seeding were occurring on that day. Surface roughening of the soiled areas will follow, working the straw mulch into the areas being "pocked". Mr. Layne Jensen, the professional engineer performing the design and verification work for the permittee, has been on site numerous times to confirm that the work is being performed according to plan. The permittee provided copies of Mr. Jensen's first quarter 2004 inspection reports / certification for inspection purposes, in order to meet the requirements of R645-301-514.200, 514.230, and 514.250. There were no hazardous conditions noted, including signs of instability during that inspection. The permittee has completed the cleaning of the high ash coal material which was used to surface the slope located NE of the former location of the clean coal stacking tube as well as in the un-named side canyon which was previously occupied by the run-of-mine coal stockpile (Mine facilities area). The high ash material was sold for blending purposes.

**9. Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Issues**

The permittee's spill prevention control and counter measure plan received its current P.E. certification in November of 2002.

**17. Other Transportation Facilities**

The rail loading facility located adjacent to the Price River will be the last facility to be reclaimed. It will be removed in a fashion which will allow it to be re-erected.

**18. Support Facilities, Utility Installations**

Both Utah Power and Light and Electrical Contractors, Incorporated, were working on the main Mine electrical substation on April 23. The type of work which was being conducted is not known.

**21. Bonding and Insurance**

The current general liability insurance remains in effect until January 1, 2005. Coverage amounts of six million and one million dollars are in place for the general aggregate and each occurrence incidents respectively. Coverage for damage incurred from the use of explosives is also provided. The reclamation bond coverage amount remains at \$7,866,000.

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22. Other

The concrete headwalls which had been installed over each of the five Willow Creek Mine portals have been broken down and will become a portion of the backfill material in that area.